

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) is required in order to make an examiner's amendment, which places this application in condition for allowance. During a telephone conversation conducted on May 11, 2006, applicant's attorney G Gregory Schivley requested an extension of time for one MONTH(S) and authorized the Director to charge Deposit Account No. 08-0750 the required fee of \$120.00 for this extension and authorized the following examiner's amendment. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, line 3, after "Mn, " insert -0.15 to 1.0 wt% of Nb, — and before "of Ni" delete -or less--.

In claim 8, delete lines 2 and 3 and insert therein --molding a raw powder for sintering according to claim 1 and then sintering the molded raw powder.--.

In claim <sup>9</sup>8, delete lines 2 and 3 and insert therein --molding a raw powder for sintering according to claim 4 and then sintering the molded raw powder.--.

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ngoclan T. Mai whose telephone number is (571) 272-1246. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30-6:00 PM Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

KM  
9/12/06